

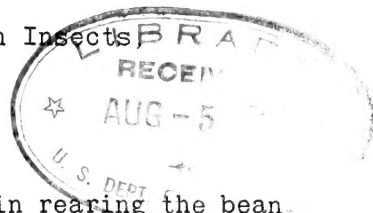
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A NEW INSECT CAGE FOR USE ON FLOWERPOTS

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The insect cage described has been found very useful in rearing the bean beetle (Epilachna corrupta Muls.). The main advantage of this cage is the locking device which affords a means of easily and quickly fastening the cage to, or removing it from, a flowerpot. Thus, when it is necessary to examine many cages daily, much time is saved.

Construction

The cage consists of two pieces of screen (any desired mesh may be used), four pieces of 22-gage galvanized sheet iron, and one overshoe buckle (fig. 1). To fit a 6-inch flowerpot, the side screen is cut 23 inches long and any desired height. The top for this size of cage is cut 8 inches in diameter, and the edge turned down so that it will fit over the outside of the top of the cage and underneath the top metal band. The inside upright metal strip is 2 inches shorter at the lower end than the outside band. This permits the two edges of the screen to slide by each other in locking the cage on the pot. The overshoe buckle is fastened to the bottom band. The tongue of the buckle is fastened far enough back from the end of the band so as to permit the band to come between the ends of the screen. This will make it easy for them to slide by each other in locking the cage on the pot.

The cage is put together entirely with 1-pound flat-headed tinner's rivets. Caution must be observed not to draw the rivets too tight against the screen. If too tight, they will pull through the screen.

By placing the selvage edge of the screen to the bottom, the cage will fit over the pot without bending or unraveling.

It is estimated that it will cost approximately 14 cents each to construct cages such as this. The cost may vary somewhat, owing to local prices.

Operation

The cage is very simple to operate. After the insects have been placed on the potted plant, the cage is fitted over and held in place with the fingers on the bottom band while the overshoe buckle is fastened in the desired notch with the thumbs.

It has been noticed that there is considerable variation in sizes of so-called 6-inch flowerpots. If the variation is not too great, this cage can be adjusted to fit them by use of the various notches of the buckle. If the pots are much too small, a rubber band cut from an old inner tube and placed around the rim of the pot will enlarge the rim to fit the cage and also make the cage fit together.

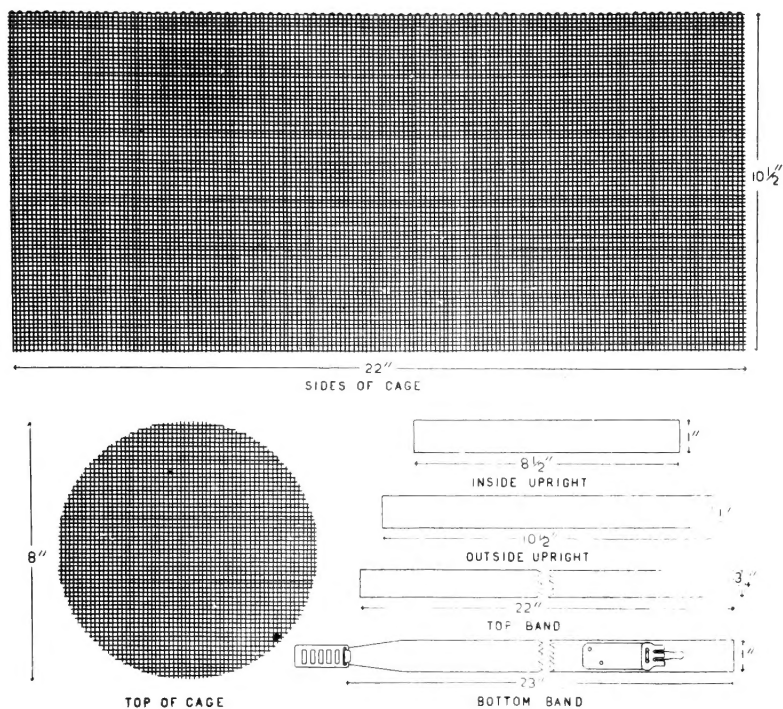


Figure 1. - Details of construction.

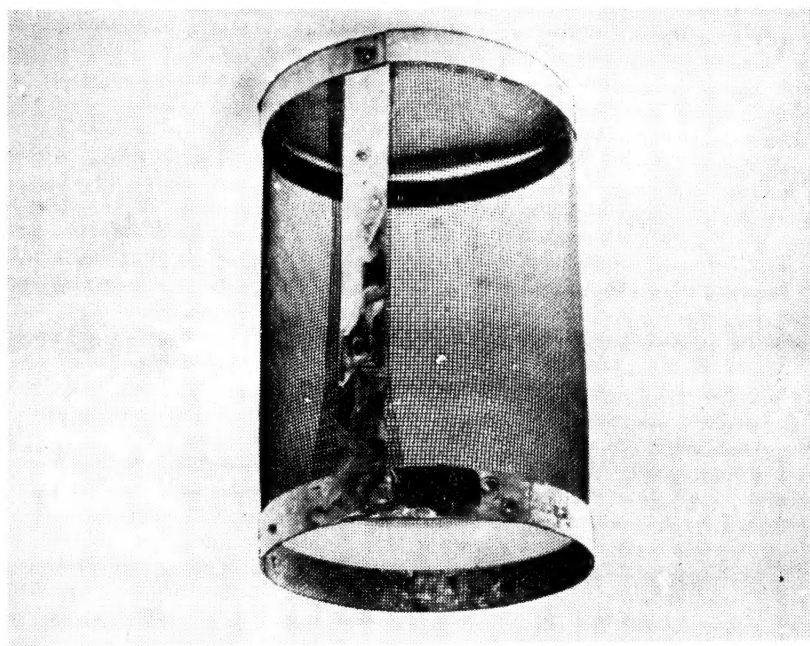


Figure 2. - Cage for use on flowerpots.

